COPPER COINAGE

OF

MARATHA EMPIRE

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Special Thanks to

Great Numismatist Sir Ganesh Nene

HERITAGE OF MARATHAS

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Marathas

Shivaji Bhonsale also referred to as Chhatrapati Shivaji, was an Indian ruler and a member of the Bhonsle Maratha clan. Shivaji carved out an enclave from the declining Adilshahi sultanate of Bijapur that formed the genesis of the Maratha Empire. In 1674, he was formally crowned the Chhatrapati (emperor) of his realm at Raigad.

Over the course of his life, Shivaji engaged in both alliances and hostilities with the Mughal Empire, the Sultanate of Golkonda and the Sultanate of Bijapur, as well as with European colonial powers. Shivaji's military forces expanded the Maratha sphere of influence, capturing and building forts, and forming a Maratha navy. Shivaji established a competent and progressive civil rule with well-structured administrative organisations. He revived ancient Hindu political traditions and court conventions and promoted the usage of the Marathi language. Shivaji's legacy was to vary by observer and time, but nearly two centuries after his death, he began to take on increased importance with the emergence of the Indian independence movement, as many Indian nationalists elevated him as a proto-nationalist and hero of the Hindus.

Sambhaji Bhosale was the second Chhatrapati of the Maratha Empire, who ruled from 1681 to 1689. He was the eldest son of Shivaji, founder of the Marathas. Sambhaji's rule was largely shaped by the ongoing wars between the Maratha kingdom and Mughal Empire as well as other neighbouring powers such as the Siddis, Mysore and the Portuguese in Goa. In 1689, Sambhaji was captured, tortured and executed by the Mughals. He was succeeded by his brother Rajaram.

Shortly following Sambhaji's accession, he began his military campaigns against neighboring states. Historians have been quick to note the distinction between the more tolerant and chivalrous practices of his father Shivaji, and the more pragmatic and brutal practices of Sambhaji.

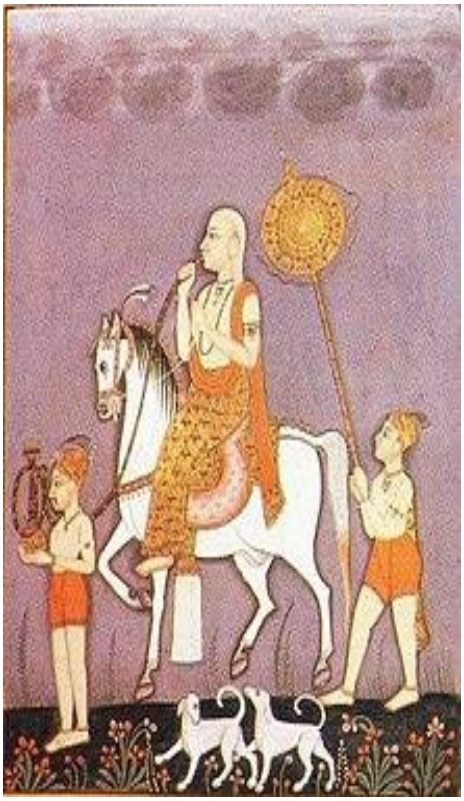
Sambhaji is used to have used many innovations during his campaigns, one such innovation was when he made jackets from leather for his soldiers to ensure protection from lethal arrows fired by the Mysore army during his campaign against Mysore, it was highly successful as after the initial defeat of the Maratha army due to the poisonous arrows, the Maratha army was able to negate the arrows and achieved victory by using these leather jackets.

Marathas

Rajaram Bhosle was the second son of Maratha ruler Shivaji, and younger half-brother of Sambhaji. He took over the Maratha Empire as its third Chhatrapati after his brother's death at the hands of the Mughal emperor Aurangzeb in 1689. His eleven-year reign was marked with a constant struggle against the Mughals.

Rajaram was born in a family of Bhonsle clan, to Shivaji and his younger wife, Soyarabai on 14 February 1670. He was thirteen years younger than his brother, Sambhaji. Given the ambitious nature of Soyarabai, Rajaram was installed on the Maratha throne upon the death of his father in 1680. However, the Maratha generals wanted Sambhaji as the king and thus, he claimed the throne. Upon Sambhaji's death, Rajaram was crowned as Chhatrapati of the Maratha state.

Rajaram occupied the fort at Jinji from 11 November 1689, but left before it fell in 1698, setting up his court at fort Satara. During that period when Jinji remained unconquered, "the intrepid Maratha commanders, Santaji Ghorpade and Dhanaji Jadhav, wrought havoc in the Karnataka and Maharashtra by defeating the Mughal generals and cutting off their lines of communication.



Shahu Bhosale was the fourth Chhatrapati of the Maratha Empire created by his grandfather, Shivaji Maharaj. Born in the Bhonsle family, he was the son of Sambhaji Maharaj, Shivaji Maharaj's eldest son and successor. Shahu, as a child, was taken prisoner along with his mother in 1689 by Mughal sardar, Zulfikar Khan Nusrat Jang after the Battle of Raigarh (1689). After the death of Aurangzeb in 1707, leading Mughal courtiers released Shahu with a force of fifty men, thinking that a friendly Maratha leader would be a useful ally. At that time, he fought a brief war with his aunt Tarabai in an internecine conflict to gain the Maratha throne in 1708.

Under Shahu's reign, Maratha power and influence extended to all corners of the Indian subcontinent. However, after his death, power moved from the ruling Chhatrapati to his ministers (the Peshwas) and the generals who had carved out their own fiefdoms such as Bhonsle of Nagpur, Gaekwad of Baroda, Sindhia of Gwalior and Holkar of Indore.

Early in his reign, Shahu appointed Balaji Vishwanath as his Peshwa. Over the next fifty years, Balaji followed by his son, Bajirao I and grandson Balaji Bajirao with help of capable military leaders such as Shinde, Holkar, Gaekwad, Pawar and Bhonsle of Nagpur expanded Maratha power in all directions of the Indian subcontinent.

Introduction to the copper Coinage of Marathas

The Marathas were a loose group of warrior people residing in the western India. They became politically powerful in the late 17th century under the leadership of **Chhatrapati Shivaji Bhosle**. Throughout the 18th century, they increased their power at the expense of the Mughals. By the end of the 18th century, they were the most powerful people in the whole of the Indian subcontinent. It was only the vast resources and the superior military forces of the English East India Company which was successful in subduing the Marathas.

The Maratha economy was mainly agrarian. The Maratha coins also lacked high degree of sophistication. The various Maratha kingdoms never issued a uniform series of coin. The currency system was very loosely controlled by the state. The state restrained its duty to the collection of revenues and never beyond it. In this field, the Marathas were much inferior to their contemporary adversaries such as the Mughals or the English who were always keen to maintain proper currency system across the empire.

Even in some cases, the Marathas used the coins issued by the Mughals. During the 18th century, the most common coin in use across the Maratha territory was actually a Mughal currency- the silver Sicca.

However, a notable exception in this field is Shivrai. Shivrai is a copper coin of very low value. It was used extensively by the common folks across western India. The earliest examples of Shivrai came from the reign of Shivaji. Even the English East India Company who became the dominant political force after the Third Anglo-Maratha wars continued to issue Shivrai coins.

Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj issued a large number of copper coins popularly known as Shivrai. The Shivarais were minted at various mints even post-humorously and circulated till the middle of the nineteenth century. This was the beginning of the Marathas and their Coins. The Shivrai coins were mainly round in shape. The obverse of the coins carried the inscription 'Sri Raja Shiv' in Devanagari script. The reverse also carried a devanagari inscription- Chhatrapati in honor of the reigning Maratha monarch. The weight of these coins was not uniform. They were valued at 1/74th to 1/79th of a Rupee-the standard unit of currency in the Indian subcontinent. Also, there are other places all over India where Maratha copper coins minted in the name of mughal rulers.
The Copper coins issued by the Maratha were inspired by the Bahamani Kingdom and later Ahmadnagar Copper Falus.

As the coins became increasingly obsolete during the final quarter of the 19th century they were replaced by company coins valued at 1/64 of a rupee called a pice. The shivrai coins were collected by local revenue collectors (mamlatdars) in 1885 and deposited in the treasury.

Early Issue of Shivrai

Maratha Empire ⚑ Early Shivrai Isuue, probably struck in the month of May 1674 before coronation date of Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj Obv: Shiv/Raj (शिव/राज), Rev: Chhatra/Pati (छत्र/पति), Both side legend within circle.

Dotted Shivrais with Various Die Varities / Platina

Maratha Empire Various Dotted Shivrai (Cu) with different die varieties and platina (**Raigadee/Satara**), Obv: Shri/Raja/Shiv (श्री /राजा/शिव), Rev: Chhatra/Pati (छत्र/पति), Sharp bold strike, both side legend within dotted circle.

Low Weight Shivrai

Weight of Shivrai coins was not uniform. Shivrais were struck in various denominations. Some selected examples of Shivrais are listed below:

Shivrai Copper fraction Paisa, 7.77g, Shivaraee with Nagari legends, obv. chhatra/ pati, rev. shri/ raja /shiv.

'Swarajya' phase - copper 'Shivarai' Fraction paisa in the name of Chhatrapati Shivaji (1674-1680 AD), fine lettering without dotted border on both sides, 5.76g.

Copper Fraction Shivarai Paisa with broad flan dotted type, 3.68g, Shivaraee with Nagari legends, Obv. Shri/ Raja /Shiv, Rev. Chhatra/ Pati.

Copper Fraction Shivarai Paisa with shivpindi above Chhatra.

Copper Fraction Shivarai Paisa with trishul with damru between Ra & Ja on obv., 3.2gm.

Fractional low weight Shivarai with bud mark between Ra & Ja on obv.

Copper Fraction Shivarai, Approx. 4.5-5.5g, Different calligraphy.

Copper Shivrai, 6.44g, Obv: Sri Raja Shav, Rev: Chhatrapati.

Shambhurai

Maratha Empire, **Chhatrapati Sambhaji Maharaj** Copper paisa, 11-12g, Obv: "Shri/Raja/Shambu" within dotted circle, Rev: "Chattrapati" within dotted circle.

Maratha Empire, **Chhatrapati Sambhaji Maharaj** (Shambhu) Paisa on rectangular planchet with thin calligraphy, 12gm, Obv: Shri Raja Shambhu in three lines, Rev: Chhatrapati in two lines.

Maratha Empire, **Chhatrapati Sambhaji Maharaj** (Shambhu) Paisa, 11-12gm, Obv: Shri Raja Shambhu in three lines, Rev: Chhatrapati in two lines, dotted border seen on both sides, large flan.

Maratha Empire, Copper ½ Shambhu Paisa, 7.59gm, Obv: Shri Raja Shambhu in three lines, Rev: Chhatrapati in two lines.

There are different die varieties for Shambhurai coins listed by Senior Numismatist Sir Kiran Karande and Sir Naeim Shaikh as linked below:

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Rajaramarai

Maratha Empire, **Chhatrapati Rajaram Maharaj**
Copper paisa, Obv: Shri/Raja/Ram in three lines; Rev.: Chhatra/pati in dotted border, approx. 10gm.

'Swarajya' phase - copper ½ Kasu in the name of Rajaram (1689-1700 AD), most likely struck in a southern mint in the vicinity of Gingee, 1.89g. Obv: Nagari legend in two lines ...Raja Rama. Rev: Nagari legend Chhatra / papi in two lines.
The legends are inscribed in crude style and with some mistakes ('tapi' instead of 'pati'). This was a common feature for southern mints, as the engravers here were less familiar with Nagari script than those from mints of the north. Rajaram set up his government in exile at Gingee after escaping from the fort of Raigad when it was captured by the Mughals following the arrest and killing of his brother, Chhatrapati Sambhaji. He was besieged at Gingee for many years, but ultimately managed to return to Maharashtra shortly before his death.

Another type in copper ½ Kasu in the name of Rajaram, struck in a southern mint in the vicinity of Gingee, approx..1-2gm. Obv: Nagari legend in two lines. (Raja) Rama. Rev: Nagari legend Chhatra / (tapi) in two lines.

Chhatrapati Ram Raja Paisa with black platina, 8.89 gm, RamRaja was titular Chhatrapati, there are various varieties under his name.

Coin with Raja Siv on Obv. and Ram/Chhatra/ Pati on Rev., Complete Ram visible on coin, 9 gm, probably issue of Rajaram 2.

Shivrai with ShriRam/Raja on obv. & Chhatra on rev.; dudandi type.

Shivrai type with Ram/Raja on obv.; Shah Alam2 on rev., approx 8 gm, Devnagari legend on one side and urdu on other is quite unusual/debatable; especially in this type.

Shahurai

Maratha Empire, **Chhatrapati Shahu Maharaj** 1, ½, & ¼ paisa, weighing 8.99g, 6.3g, 2.48g resp.; Obv. Shri/Raja/Shau; Dudandi type.

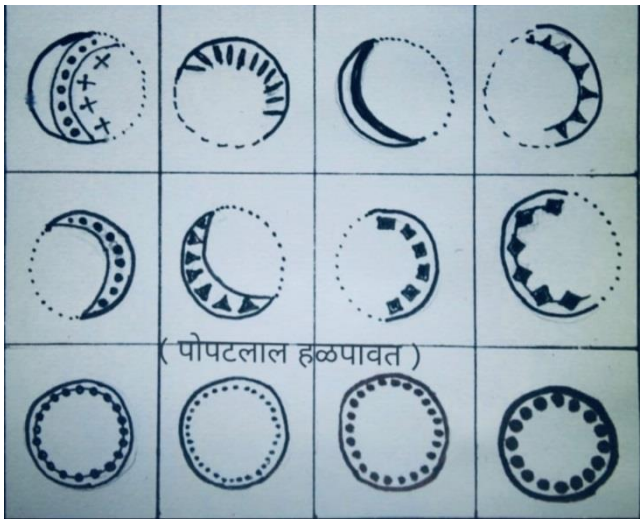
Maratha Empire, **Chhatrapati Shahu Maharaj** Paisa, with various writing style of "Vu" mentioned above with three different weight varieties 8.99g, 9.58g & 10.23g respectively.

Retrograde Shahu paisa, 9-10gm, first coin with retro Raja on obv.; and second with retro Chhatra on rev.

Copper Shivrai paisa, Obv: Shri/Raja/**Shavu** Rev:Chhatrapati in dotted border but still it's questionable whether these are Chhatrapati issue or not.

Shivrai with Shri/Raja/**Shav** on obv.; and Chhatra/pati on rev.; black platina with dotted border, it's not concluded yet that these types come under Shahu issue or not.

Shivrai coins with Various Border Types



Shivrais were struck with different type of borders. These types are listed above with pictorial presentation by Senior Numismatist Sir Popatlal Halpawat; some are listed below:

1. Stars with dotted border in circle
2. Rice grain type
3. Linear border/ circle
4. Dotted border around circle
5. Flowers/stars with string type
6. Border of diamonds between two circles
7. Border with dots(small & thick)
8. Border with hollow dots
9. Beads with string type border

Stars with dotted border in circles (4 borders)

Rice grain type dotted border

Linear border or circle type; this type comes with tanjavur Maratha low weight shivrai with typical southern calligraphy.

Dotted border around circle (2 borders)

Flowers/stars with string type border

Border of dimonds between two circles (3 borders)

Border with thick dots

Border with small dots

Border with hollow dots

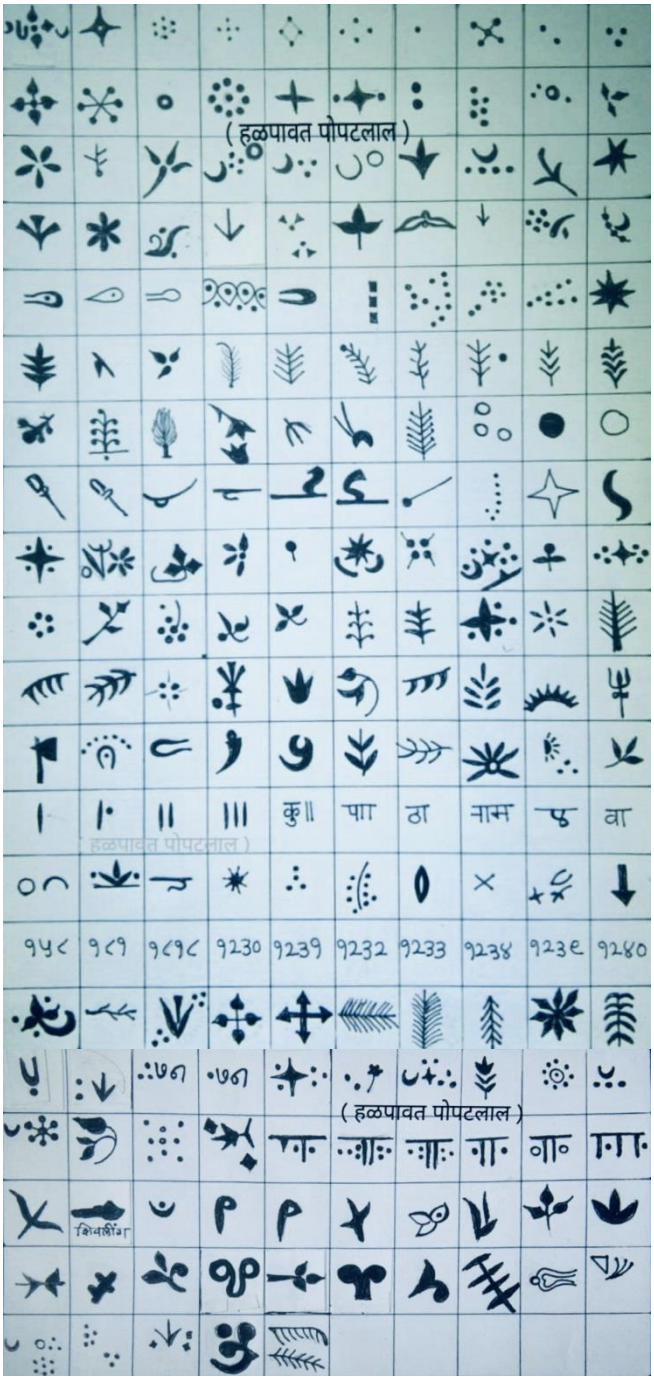
Border of beads with string

Shivrai coins with Various Symbols

During Peshva period, Shivrais were struck with various symbols/marks as mentioned in below listing which is pictorially represented by Senior Numismatist Sir Popatlal Halpawat.

These marks/symbols especially related with gods of Peshvas and their weapons etc.

There are various symbols like tree, shivpindi, various weapons, flower, bud, tridal, star, sun. moon, dots included on die.



Shivrai with Floral/bud/tridal Symbols

Floral design above Chha on reverse side.

½ Shivrai, 6gm, tridal below Ja on obverse side.

Tridal or Floral mark in between Ra and Ja on obv. and above Chhetra on reverse.

Floral type symbols with dots before Shri on obv.

Floral design after Chha on reverse side.

Different floral marks on both sides. Mark on reverse side is nearly same as mark on silver Nashik mint rupee.

Bud mark after Shri on obv. and above Chha on rev.; special thing of this coin that all letters are separate.

Half Shivrai with Small star between Ra and Ja on obv.; Small flower/bud or trident? below Chha on reverse.

Flower/bud mark in between Chha&Tra on rev.

Flower bud mark in above Chhetra on rev.

Flower/bud mark after Shri on obv. & above Chhatra on rev.

Shivrai Paisa with Beautiful flower with 4 petals above Chhatra with multiple dots as a mint mark.

Shivarai with Weapons

Trishul symbol with damru between Ra and Ja on obv., Sun & Moon above Chhatra on rev.

Trident above Chhatra and sword in between Chha and Tra on rev.

Shivrai with parshu mark in between Ra & Ja on obverse side on both coins. Both parshu types are different.

Shivrai with symbol looks like Bow/Arrow? type seen below Tra and above Ti, May be velanti of Ti is made such a way that it appears like bow-arrow on rev. side of coin.

Shivrai with horizontal Parshu mark above Chhatra on rev., both Parashu symbols are different one is heading right and other towards left.

Bilva Patra between Ra & Ja on obv., Trishul like symbol above Chhatra on rev.

Shivrai with Shivpindi

Horizontal Shivpindi above chhatra on reverse, 9.02gm.

Other type of horizontal Shivpindi above chhatra on reverse.

Vertical Shivpindi above chhatra on reverse.

Above both coins with Shivpindi between Chha & Tra nicely struck and floral design above chhatra on reverse.

Shivpindi between Ra & Ja, Rev: Chhatrapati, Shivpindi between Chha & Tra.

Shivrai with Dots as a mint mark

Shivrai comes with various dot marks; may be mint marks of relevent places where its been struck.

Various dots seen before letter Ra, can be a flower? on obv. and dots seen inside Chha and Pa also after Chha and Tra.

Shivrai with various dots surrounded with border seen above Chhetra; may be a mint mark.

Shivrai with various dots all over coin and with different calligraphy.

Various dots seen before letter Ra on obv. and dots seen inside Chha and Pa also after Chha and Tra.

Shivrai type with dots all over flan, Obv: Shri/Raja/Siv, Rev: Chhatra/Pati, Dots all over flan makes this shivrai unique, this type encountered in Marathwada region.

Various Other Types

Above all few different writing style of "Shri".

Above both shivrais with very small lettering Tra on rev.

Shivrai, Paisa, Copper, Beautiful coin with moon after Shri on obv.inside dotted circle.

Shivrai, Paisa, Copper, Obv: Raja / ??, Rev: Chhatra/Poti; Unusual issue, finding place Konkan region.

Above three specimens are seen with Shriraja (श्रीराजा) in one single line on obv. Second coin bears shivapindi above Chhatra on reverse.

ChhatraPati (छत्रपति) in one single line on rev.

Unusual Shivrai with Tha letter above Chhatra probably "Tha" in devnagari on reverse.

Above type bears different calligraphy on coin other than regular ones; Shri/Raja/Siva on obv. & **Shri/Chhatra/Pati** on rev. ; Various beautiful floral designs seen on the coins in this type.

Half and quarter denominations are also known in this type. This specimen might be denoting perticular mint place where it got struck.

Decorative shivrai with retro Chha and sun/moon above Shri and plus sign above Chhatra.

Shivrai with moon below Chhatra on reverse.

Beautiful Shivrai paisa bold strike in dotted border.

Raja is shifted back in this type compare to usual coin types.

Shivrai, Paisa, above two specimen green and red platina with different calligraphy style.

Shivrai, Paisa, Copper, Obv: Sri/Raja/Seev, Rev: Chhatra/pati, beautiful coin with different calligraphy; this coin also with Raja shifted back compare to common type.

Shivrai, Paisa, Copper, Obv: Sri/Raja/Shiv, Rev: Chhatra/pati, beautiful coin with different calligraphy.

Dotted Shivrai with star marks after Shri on obv. and above Chhatra on rev., there are various varieties come with star marks but this type is special among all.

Copper heavy weight Shivrai, 16.62g Obv: Devnagari legend "Cha tra pa ti" in dotted circle Rev: Devnagari legend "Sri ra ja Shi va".

Dudandi Shivrai

Dudandi Shivrais (दुदांडी शिवराई) were minted during Peshwa period. Dudandi literally means two-bars. In this type, the "Shri" at the top of the obverse is underlined. This horizontal line, combined with the horizontal heading line of the word "Raja", gives us an impression of "Double bars", hence the term "Dudandi". Still there is no proof that why Dudandi with two horizontal bars is introduced.

There are various symbols seen on dudandi type other than normal type. As seen above on page 10, Chhatrapati Shahu Shivrai issue is a type of dudandi Shivrai. Hence, we can say that dudandi shivrai may introduced in Shahu period.

Dudandi Shivrai Paisa, 13.55gm, Probably heavy weight Shivrai in dudandi type.

Dudandi Shivrai with Weapon Symbols

Dudandi Shivrais noted with various weapon symbols like ankushi, sword, trishul, waghanakh etc. Few varieties are listed below:

Shivrai with Ankushi mark with sun and moon symbols above Chhatra on rev.

Shivrai with Waghnakh? before Chha on rev.

Dudandi shivrai with sword mark before Shri on obverse.

Sword mark after Shri on obverse side.

Dudandi shivrai with trishul mark after Shri.

Dudandi Shivrais with dots

Dudandi Shivrai with Floral/bud/leaves Symbols

Dudandi Shivrai with Tree Symbols

- Dudandis with tree/branches type symbols; but still debatable that last three coins are with tree symbol or any other (vaghnakh?/Vajra?).

- Plus(+) sign with dot in each quadrant after Shri on obv.; Tree mark with 4 dots before Chha.

Various Other Dudandi Varieties

There are dudandi Shivrai coins seen with various different symbols like Sun with rays, Snake, Bird, Nagfani, Ganesh, Cross etc; some are listed below:

The cross with four dots is an Indus Valley symbol which is believed to be the symbol of peace and good luck among Indians; same symbol seen above Chhatra on rev.; 9.85gm; also, same symbol seen on previous coin after Shri on obv.

Rare later copper shivrayee of chhatrapati Shahu maharaj of satatra. Weight 8.9 gm. In weight one side Shri raja (Shahu) other side chhatrapati The rarity is the mint mark above chhatrapati it's rising sun with rays.

Copper Shivrai Paisa, may be satara issue, Mint mark on Obverse in right hand corner Krause, 10 gm, 19mm.

Dudandi with nagfani symbol after Ti on rev.

Shivrai with Sun and moon inside letter "Chha" and dotted line seen after "Tra"

Shivrai with bird? like symbol with dot below each wing, 9.68gm.

Paa lettering after Shri on obv. and number nine or retro one in devnagri before Chha on rev.

Dudandi Shivrai with stephon's cross? or hook type symbol.

Dudandi with kind of Ganesh symbol on rev.

Dudandi with different type of Chha type; may be an error or some trial issue.

Dudandi Shivrai with irregular symbol seen may be snake around shivpindi.

Two sun marks above Chhetra on reverse side.

Sun after Shri and four dots after Ja on obv.

Devnagri letter Pa with additional vertical line above Chhetra on rev.

Devnagri letter Pa with additional vertical line after Shri on obv. and above Chhetra on rev.; 9.67gm.

Different Shivrai varieties with two vertical line instead of Shiv below Raja; various dots seen besides these two vertical lines. Quite different issue; may be coin struck at particular mint place.

Dudandi Dated Shivrai

Unlike Earlier Shivrais, these contained year of minting on it. The dotted collar of earlier Shivrais is also absent. The year was given in Fasli era. These are dudandi type. There are various known dates on do-dandi shivrai type like 158, 181, 1818, 1230, 1230, 1232, 1232, 1233, 1234, 1239, 1240. It's debatable that these are either Peshva issue or British East India Company. Some Shivrais noted with "Shri" before the date and some with after the date. Normally this type of shivrai weighs between 9-10gm. Few dated dudandi coins are listed below:

Various Dated Shivrai Paisa, Obv: Sri Raja Shiv, Fasli date in Devnagari & Persian combination, Rev: Chhatrapati.

Retro & Error Shivrai

There are Shivrais struck with mirror images of lettering or double/multiple struck. Some examples are listed below:

Shivrai Paisa, Shivaraee with Reverse Nagari legends, Retro/Error on both sides, Obv. Shri/ Raja /Shiv, Rev. Chhatra/ Pati with dotted border on both sides.

There are various examples seen in retro type lettering on shivrai copper coins but reason behind this is unknown so far. Some coins are listed above.

Shivrai Paisa, Error type Shivaraee with Nagari legends "Shri Raja Shiv'' on both sides.

Shivrai Paisa, Error type Shivaraee with Nagari legends "Chhatra/ Pati'' on both sides.

Shivrai Paisa, Error type, Obv. Shri/ Raja /Shiv, Rev. Chhatra/ **Pavi**.

Shivrai Paisa, Error type, Obv. Raja /Shiv?, Rev. Chhatra/ **Nati.**

Shivrai Paisa, Error type, Obv. (Shri)/Raja/ /**Rip**, Rev. Chhatra/ pati

Copper Shivarai, 9.84g, Unique,Might be an error type, Obv: Legend arrangement in Unique way, "Sri" written upwards down "Raja" written normal way, Rev: "Chatra" written downwards down, "Pati" written normal way.

Shivaraee Paisa, 8.07g, Error, double struck.

Copper ½ Paisa, 8.08g, Shivaraee with Nagari legends, Error, double struck on both sides, obv. chhatra/ pati, rev. shri/ raja /shiv.

Copper Shivrai, 10.01g, Double Struck on both sides, Obv: "Sri Raja Shiv", Rev: "Chattrapati".

Shivarai Paisa Error, Copper, 9.30 g, Shri Raja Shiva and Chhatrapati type with re-striking on obv.

Various Multiple Strucks Shivrai Paisa, Error types.

Shivrai struck on Bijapur sultanate muhammad adil shah coin, weight : 8.33 gm.

Shivrai struck nicely on blank of Hydrabad Nizam paisa, Error type, Weight approx. 8-9gm.

Parshu & Nagfani Paisa

Parshu varieties with various dies; may be minted as Pune, Maharashtra.

Copper Nagphani Paisa with various dies, in the name of Shah Alam II, with nagfani symbol on coin without dot and with dot above nagfani.

Copper, 8.33g, Nagphani with Trishul, in the name of Shah Alam II. Patinated.

Copper Paisa, Nagphani, Error Double struck.

Ahmedabad Paisa

Ahmedabad Mint, Copper, Paisa, in the name of Shah Alam II, an Ankush as mint mark on rev, mint name off flan.

Agra- Akbarabad Paisa

Agra- Akbarabad, Copper Paisa, 9.72g, in the name of Shah Alam II, AH 1202, Flower as a mint mark. Patinated.

Akbarabad (Agra) Mint, Copper Paisa, 9.66g, in the name of Shah Alam II, flower and dagger on rev.

Copper paisa of Agra (Akbarabad) mint in the name of Shah Alam II, 'pistol' mint mark on reverse, AH 121(6), 9.41gm.

Akbarabad- Agra, Copper 1/2 Paisa, 5.13g, in the name of Shah Alam II, AH 12XX, Pistol as a mint mark.

Akbarabad- Agra, Copper Paisa, 8.26g, in the name of Shah Alam II, AH 1211. Struck during Daulat Rao Sindhiya's occupation Governed by John Hessing.

Akot Paisa

Akot Paisa, Horizontal Slender Fish as mint mark.

Amravati Paisa

Amravati Paisa, Lotus and sword as a mint mark, probably double struck.

Balanagar Gadha (Mandla) Paisa

Copper ½ Paisa, 5.69g, Balanagar Garha Mint, 3x RY, INO Shah Alam II, Dagger on obverse and a different flower on reverse, as mint mark.

Burhanpur Paisa

Copper Paisa, Burhanpur Mint, 12.80 g, 23.00 mm, with a flower on the reverse.

Chandore Paisa

Chandore - Jafarabad, Copper, 10.19g, Chandor mint, in the name of Shah Alam II, with pseudo-RY9, strike of specially produced coin-dies of Ja'afarabad 'urf Chandore.

The coin is comparable to extremely rare 'Nazarana' strikes of the Maratha 'Chandori' rupees. It is possible that they were struck for ceremonial purposes in the politically volatile five year period (1796-1800), which witnessed many intrigues between the Peshwa-apparent Baji Rao II, his friend Daulat Rao Sindhia and adversary, the minister Nana Phadnavees.

Chandore, Copper Double Paisa, 20.00g, in the name of Shah Alam II.

Erandol (Khandesh) Paisa

Dhaboo or double shivrai of 20gm on dou-dandi paisa partly Devanagari partly urdu. One side shahalam badshah with two dividing lines other side Chhatra pati. This is issue of mint place called Erandol .(khandesh).

Ginjee Kasu/Paisa

Gingee Marathas, Copper Kasu, Obv: *seated lord ganesha,* Rev: *'rama' in nagari,* 2.0g,10.60mm.

Gingee Marathas Kasu, 3.25gm, big size calligraphy similar to big size coins.

Gingee Marathas, Shivrai, 7.5gm, calligraphy quite different from regular deccan Shivrai.

Haridwar Paisa

Hariwdar is an ancient town is famous hindu place of Pilgrimage it recorded that **AKBAR** struck coins at Haridwar, but there after it was never a mint of the Mughal Emporer. **Haridwar** was during the latter part of the 18 Cent. In the Jagir of Ghulam Qadir Khan. It was taken from Him by The Marathas.

The Maratha carried on the mint at **Haridwar**, but apparently very spasmodically, and in small way for the coins very rare.

Hardwar (Tirath) Mint, Copper Paisa, In the name of Shah Alam II, Obv: sikka mubarak badshah ghazi Shah Alam & flower mint mark, Rev: sana julus, zarb Hardwar on top & jhar mark, 3.13g, 18.5mm, Scarce.

Hardwar Mint, Copper Paisa, 35 RY, In the name of Shah Alam II, Obv: sikka mubarak badshah shah alam, Rev: mint name, regnal year and trident with fish mint mark, 5.9g, 18.36mm.

Copper Takka, 17.55gm, Haridwar Mint, AH 1205 / RY 31, in the name of Shah Alam I.

Jhansi Balwantnagar Paisa

Jhansi Mint, 1, ½ & ¼ Paisa Copper (1759-1806), in the name of Shah Alam II.

Kunch Hijri Takka

Copper Takka, 16.54g, Kunch, INO Shah Alam II, RY 31.

Lahore Paisa

Copper Paisa, 12.52g. Lahore Mint at top, in the name of Shah Alam II, AH 1172/RY 5.

Maharajganj Paisa

Maharajganj Paisa, Trident on obverse and flag on reverse as a mint mark.

Mahoba Takka/Paisa

Mahoba Mint, Copper Takka, 15.37g, in the name of Shah Alam II, RY 55, flower and trident as mint marks on rev.

Mathura Paisa

Copper paisa,7.93g, Islamabad Mathura mint, in the name of Shah Alam II, Jhar mint mark on obverse, bow and arrow mint mark on reverse.

Copper paisa, 8.86g. Islamabad Mathura mint, in the name of Shah Alam II, RY 14, Fish mint mark on reverse.

Islamabad- Mathura, Copper Paisa, 9.43g, "Fish" type, in the name of Shah Alam II, the mint-name resembles 'Ratlam' but could well be a crude rendering of 'Islam'(abad). If this is the case this could be a Maratha issue of Islamabad Mathura mint.

Nagpur Bhosla Copper Issues

Coins of Bhonsalas are found in silver and copper. Copper coins are attributed to Katak Nagpur, Hinganghat and other unknown mints. The Do Dandi copper paisa and 2 paisa found with 2 bars in the middle hence the name Do Dandi.

Nagpur Bhonsala, Katak, Copper Paisa, 13.95g, in the name of Shah Alam II, RY 32, Flag as a Mint mark.

Nagpur Bhonsala, Katak, Copper Do Dandi Paisa, 19.20 to 20.5gm, in the name of King Ggeorge V, Bombay Mint.

Copper Paisa attributed to Bhonslas of Nagpur, showing the face of a deity on obverse amidst largely illegible legends, 9.44g.
Although this type has been conventionally attributed to the Bhonslas of Nagpur, the iconography of the symbol on obverse suggests it to be a representation of Renuka, the mother goddess whose shrine is at Mahur in South Marathwada. Mahur was also a town of an eminent Jagirdar family which served under the Nizams.

Nagpur Bhonsala, Hinganghat, Copper 2 Paisa.

Bhonslas of Nagpur, Raghuji III (1808-1853 AD), copper Balashahi Takka, in the name of Ahmed Shah Bahadur, Jabalpur mint, dagger pointing down on obverse, mintmark 'EI' on reverse, 14.90g.
Struck by Nana Ghatge as the mint-master, these issues of Jabalpur mint copy designs of Nagpur silver coins. This Takka appears to have an extra symbol of Ankush (upside down) on reverse which is an unusual feature.

Nagpur Bhonsala, Katak, Copper Paisa, 9.29g.

Nagpur Bhonsala, Katak, Copper Paisa with trident on obv.

Sagar Ravishnagar Paisa

Copper Takka, 13.75g, Ravishnagar Sagar Mint, in the name of Shah Alam II, RY 42, Pataka & Trisul Mint mark.

Ravishnagar Sagar Mint, Copper Paisa, 38 RY, In the name of Shah Alam II, Obv: "saya-e-fazle-elah" couplet, sikka zad bar haft kishwar sayaye fazle elah, hami-e-dine mohammad, shah alam badshah, trident and circle mint mark, Rev: manus maimanat sana julus zarb, 15.18g, 24.40mm.

Ravishnagar Sagar Mint, Copper Paisa, 55 RY, In the name of Shah Alam II, Obv: "saya-e-fazle-elah" couplet, sikka zad bar haft kishwar sayaye fazle elah, hami-e-dine mohammad, shah alam badshah, trident and lotus bud mint mark, Rev: manus maimanat sana julus zarb, 15.08g, 23.16mm.

Copper Takka, 15.10g, Sagar, Ravish Nagar Mint, 5(5) RY, in the name of Shah Alam II, Flower and trident as mint mark.

Saharanpur Paisa

Saharanpur, Copper Paisa, 18.00g, in the Name of Shah Alam II, RY 33.

Saharanpur Mint, Copper Double / 2 Paisa / Takka, 15.81g, in the name of Shah Alam II, AH 1214/41.

copper double paisa, 16.47g, Saharanpur mint, in the name of Shah Alam II, AH 1215/RY 42.

Saharanpur Mint, Copper, Takka-Paisa, in the name of Shah Alam II, AH 1251/42. Broad flan, mint name on rev.

Saharanpur Mint, Copper Double / 2 Paisa / Takka, 16.32g, in the name of Shah Alam II, AH 1215/42, flower symbol as a mint mark, complete mint name at top on rev.

Copper double paisa, 15.19g, Saharanpur mint, in the name of Shah Alam II, AH 120x/RY 40, mint mark var.

Saharanpur, Copper Paisa, 8.28g, in the name of Shah Alam II, AH 1205/ RY 32.

Saharanpur mint, Copper, 16.28 g, Paisa, in the name of Shah Alam II, AH 1215, RY 42, mint name at top on rev. Broad flan.

Sashti (Salsette) Paisa

Copper Paisa, 7.09g, Salsette, Sashti Mint, Obv: Pra(nt) Sa(shti), Rev: Sha-ke(date)g 76. in Nagari legends.

Copper Quarter Paisa, Sashti Mint, 1.48g. Obv: Devanagari legend beginning with 'De' but truncated afterwards. Rev: Devanagari legend Shake 96.

Sashti, Copper Paisa, 6.90g, Obv: Marathi legend Pra Sashti in two lines; a vertical stroke after Pra indicating a short form of 'Prant' (county), Rev: Marathi legend Shake, followed by a date 96.

The County of Sashti is identified with the region of present day Greater Mumbai with Thane as its headquarters. It came under the Maratha rule as a result of the Bassein (Vasai) campaign of Baji Rao I in 1740. It remained under Maratha control until 1774 when the British of Bombay occupied it in the course of the first Anglo-Maratha War. It was permanently ceded to the British in 1782. The date on the coin, 'Year 96', is perhaps the only instance of dating encountered on a Maratha coin reckoned in the 'Coronation Era' of Shivaji, which began in 1674. The 96th year of this Era would correspond to 1770, which is just before the British conquest of Sashti

Khem Sawant, Anonymus Issue, Copper Paisa, 3.85g, Sashti Paisa, both sides Nagri Legend 'Sa'.

Sawantwadi Paisa

Sawantwadi Copper 1/4 Paisa of legend raje Khem Sawant. Obv. (Khe)m Sa(want), Rev. (Ba)hadu(r).

Wadi- Sawantwadi, Khem Sawant, Copper Paisa, 6.92g, Obv: Devnagari legend "Raja Khem Sawant", Rev: "Bahadur". Complete legend visible on both sides.

Sawant Wadi, Khem Sawant III alias Bapusaheb Sawant (1755-1803 AD), Copper Paisa / Rajebahaduri Paisa, 7.6g, Devnagari legend on both sides obv. Raja Khem Sawant in three lines, rev. Bahadur in two lines.

Sawantwadi - copper beautiful specimens with devnagri legend on obverse and floral design on reverse, approx. 3.5 gm each.

Sawantwadi - copper coins weighing around approx. 3.5 gm each, with legend राजे खेम सावंत भो॥ बाहादर on obverse and floral design on reverse.

Copper 1/4 Paisa, 1-2gm, sawantwadi variety with Geometric marks.

Copper 1/4 Paisa, 1.90gm, Khem Sawant III (1755-1803 AD), Sawantwadi Mint, both side nagari legend.

Copper 1/8 Paisa, 1.83gm, Wadi, Obv: Floral Jhar, Rev: Square Mint mark below julus.

Various copper varieties of paise minted at Sawantwadi with beautiful calligraphy.

Sawantwadi Copper 1/4 Paisa of legend Raje Khem Sawant, "Bhou" for probably Bhosle followed by Bahadur.

Sawantwadi Copper 1/8 Paisa of early series of Khem Sawant, Sawantwadi, 1.8gm.

Quarter Paisa (Cu), Sawantwadi variety with Geometric design.

Tanjavur Maratha Issues

Marathas of Tanjore, Shivrai Paisa, 11 gm, Nagari legend Chhatra / pati on obv, and Nagari legend Shri / Raja / Shiva on rev.

Southern India Issues, Copper Kasu (Cash), 3.34 g, 13.00 mm, Obv: Shri Pti in Devanagari, Rev: Chetrapati in Devanagari.

Thanjavur Maratha, Copper Kasu, 2.9-3gm, Obv: Seated Bull facing left with dotted border around, Rev: Nagari legend 'Maha/raja' in two lines within a circle.

Tanjavur Maratha, Copper Shivrai, 3.26 g., Nagari legend Shri / Raja / Siva on obv. and Nagari legend Chhatra / pati on rev.

Marathas of Tanjore, 1.18 g, fractional Shivarai Paisa, Nagari legend Shri / Raja / Shiva on obv.and Nagari legend Chhatra / pati on rev.

Thanjavur Maratha, Copper Kasu, 2.88gm, Anonymous Issue, Obv: Maha Raja, Rev: Mudra.

Thanjavur Maratha (1700-1750 AD), Copper 1/2 Kasu, *In the name of* 'Maharaja' or 'Raja', Obv: *horse facing right,* Rev: *Devanagari legend 'Rājā / Rājā' in two lines,*1.7g, 11.06mm.

Thanjavur Maratha, Copper Kasu, Ganesh on obv., Maha/Raj within circle on rev., approx. 3-4gm.

Thanjavur Marathas, Copper Kasu, 3.30g, obv. Lakshmi seated, rev. Devnagari legend Maha Raja.

Marathas of Thanjavur, 16th century, Copper, obv. seated god and goddess, Rev. Maharaj in Nagari. Uncleaned, with green patina.

Tanjore Maratha, Copper Cash, approx 3-4gm, Obv: Mahadeva around Shivalingam, Rev: Maharaj in Nagari legend.

Thanjavur Maratha, Copper Kasu, Elephant with moon on obv., Maha/Raj in circle on rev., approx. 3-4gm.

Marathas of Tanjore, Chhatrapati Shivaji, Copper, 1-1.5 g, Kasu, Shri Shiva Raja in Nagari on obv, square box design on rev.

Marathas of Thanjavur, Copper Paisa/Kasu, obv. Maha/dev, Rev. Maha/raj in Nagari with beautiful patina.

Thanjavur Marathas, Anonymous Issue, Copper Kasu, approx. 1-2gm, obv. Shri Raja Shiva in nagari, rev. a square box design with crude style nagari letters.

Coin of Venkatrao(Cu), two diffapprox. 3-4 gm, Obv: Standing Hanuman (tail visible); Rev: nagari legend श्री वेंक/ट राव. Venkatrao was appointed as the governor of Arani by Tanjavur Maratha ruler Thulsaji (1763-1787). Venkatrao seems to have declared independent and issued coins in his own name.

Marathas in Tamilnadu, Copper ½ struck in the name of 'Chhatrapati', 1.29g. Obv: Double-headed eagle or Gandabherunda. Rev: Devanagari legend Chhatra/pati in two lines in a dotted circle.

Coins with similar Gandabherunda motif but with legends referring to 'Qutb Shah' or 'Utaloor' are also known. Utaloor was a fortress controlling a strategic pass between northern Tamilandu and Thondaimandalam region. It is possible that the

coins were struck either by the Marathas or by a local polygar who acknowledged Maratha suzerainty at Utaloor.

Copper, 1.31g, Obv: Devnagari legend in two lines "Sa va ma / ha ra ja" followed by crescent and sun, Rev: Devnagari legend in two lines "Ma ha ra / Ma ha ra". It's still debatable that this is issued under Marathas or not.

AE kasu, 1.48g, South India Style, Some kind of animal on obverse and Devanagari legend Chhetrā/Pāti on reverse with wonderful strike.

Marathas in Tamilnadu, Copper Kasu struck in the name of 'Chhatrapati', 2.6gm. Obv: Full shivlinga inside dotted circle. Rev: Devanagari legend Chhatra/pati in two lines in a dotted circle.

Tanjore Marathas, Copper Kasu, 1.15g, Obv : Peacock/Swan, Rev : Nagari legend "Chhatrapati".

Marathas of Tanjore, Copper heavy cash (Duddu) struck in the name of Chhatrapati Shivaji (1674-1680 AD), 2.66g. Obv: Devanagari legend Shri/Raja/Seeva in dotted circle. Rev: Devanagari legend Chhetrā/Pāti; a dot above.

Maratha of Tanjavur, Copper, Shivrai Wts 3-4g. Obv: Legend "Chattrapati", Rev: Legend "Sri Raja Shiva" (1 coin having retro legend).

Tanjavur Marathas, Sarbhoji-1, Obv: Sharabh/ Raj, Rev: Nava/Ras,Weight: 10.19gm. Sarbhoji-1 is a younger son of Venkoji and he ruled from 1712 to 1728. His rule was marked by regular warfare and disputes with the Madurai Nayak.

Vrindavan Paisa

Copper Paisa, 7.75gm, Vrindavan, Muminabad Mint, in the name of Shah Alam II, AH 12XX/41 RY, fish as a mint mark, complete mint name on rev top.

Copper Paisa, Bindraban Mint, in the name of Shah Alam II, AH1197/RY4X, 'Trisul' and 'Bel leaf' marks on reverse, 10.03g.

Copper paisa, 7.76g, (Brindaban) (Muminabad) Mint, Vrindavan, AH 121(6) INO Shah Alam II. Rev: 5 trident & leaf.

Bindraban, Copper Paisa, 9.96g, in the name of Shah Alam II, Trishul as a mint mark. Complete Mint name on top of reverse.

Shah Alam II, Brindavan, Copper Paisa, 7.54 g, 20.30 mm, flower on reverse and spear on obverse.

Venkatgiri Kasu/Cash

Ghorpades of Gutti, Anonymous Varieties Copper Cash attributed to Murar Rao Ghorpade (1750-1775 AD), struck at Venkatgiri, Approx. 1-2 g. Obv: Five-hooded serpent, symbolizing Subbaraya, the patron deity of the Ghorpade family. Rev: Nagari legend Kile Vekata Giri in two lines.

References

1. "Maratha Mints and Coinage" by K.K. Maheshwari & Kenneth W. Wiggins.

2. Courtesy of coin images – Images coins extracted from posts of group members on Shivrai group, Auctions, Internet.

3. En.wikipedia.org/wiki/Maratha rulers.